

IV. REMARKS

1. The claims are amended to correct the duplicate claim "3" numbering. One of the two claim 3's is cancelled without prejudice and renumbered as new claim 31. Claims 1-31 remain in the application.

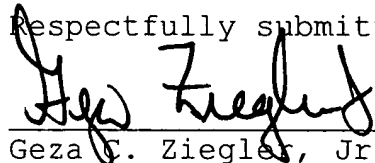
2. The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended to comply with MPEP 608.01(b).

3. Claims 6-8, 10-15, 18-21 and 24-26 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies.

The amendments to the claims are not limiting, are not made for reasons related to patentability, and do not raise issues of estoppel.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims present in the application are clearly novel and patentable, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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